



NARRATIVE TELEVISION NETWORK

COMPANION RECORDING, INC.

5840 South Memorial Drive, Suite 312

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145

(918) 627-1000

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

October 24, 1996

Via UPS Overnight Delivery

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William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comments to Notice of Inquiry
WT Docket No. 96-198


Dear Mr. Caton:

I am enclosing one (1) original and 11 copies of the Comments of the Narrative Television Network.

We would appreciate you filing the original, returning one copy to us, with the "filed" stamp affixed, in the return envelope enclosed, and distributing the remaining appropriate copies within the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,


Jim Stovall
President

jt

Enclosures

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ORIGINAL

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of)
)
Implementation of Section 255 of the)
Telecommunications Act of 1996)
)
Access to Telecommunications Services,)
Telecommunications Equipment, and)
Customer Premises Equipment)
By Persons with Disabilities)

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WT Docket No. 96-198 OCT 25 1996
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To the Commission:

RESPONSE OF NARRATIVE TELEVISION NETWORK
TO NOTICE OF INQUIRY

As a blind person myself, and as the President of the Narrative Television Network which makes movies, television, and other media accessible for blind and visually impaired people (fact sheet attached), I am most concerned about the technical standards that are being developed and the regulations governing this new technology. There are millions of blind and visually impaired people who are just now getting their first taste of accessibility within telecommunications. Proper planning, forethought, and regulations can ensure future access to this vital portion of our society. Carving out the necessary bandwidth and reserving it for accessibility to blind and visually impaired Americans is a simple and readily achievable objective today, but it will be difficult and costly, if not impossible, if it is applied as a retrofit in the future.

All of us at NTN are encouraging the FCC to establish a policy of accessibility for blind and visually impaired people that will affect all future decisions and regulations relating to technology and accessibility of media to all Americans. We would be available at any time to share our experience, data and vision for total accessibility in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

NARRATIVE TELEVISION NETWORK

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Stovall", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Stovall, President

Narrative Television Network

5840 South Memorial Drive, Suite 312

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145

(918) 627-1000 -- phone

(918) 627-4101 -- fax

e-mail: narrative@aol.com

Date: October 24, 1996



NTN **NARRATIVE TELEVISION NETWORK** COMPANION RECORDING, INC.

5840 South Memorial Drive, Suite 312
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145-9082
918 627-1000 • FX 918 627-4101

NTN makes television, home videos and movies accessible for our nation's 13 million blind and visually-impaired people and their families.

NTN unobtrusively adds the voice of a narrator to the existing programming sound track, without interfering with any of the original audio or video.

NTN launched in 1988, and has grown to include over 1,000 broadcast and cable affiliates, reaching 25 million homes in North America.

NTN has received an **EMMY** Award, a **MEDIA ACCESS** Award from the television and movie industry, an **INTERNATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO** Award, and a **GOLDEN GEORGI**, which is the top script-writing honor from The Writers Foundation of America.

NTN was designed to open the world of television to 13 million blind and visually-impaired Americans and their families. However, 60% of NTN's audience is made up of fully-sighted people who simply enjoy the programming.

NTN programming consists of a talk/interview show, followed by a narrated movie. Guests who have appeared on NTN include Katharine Hepburn, Jack Lemmon, Helen Hayes, Eddie Albert and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., among many other of Hollywood's biggest stars.

NTN is available throughout the United States on Nostalgia Television and throughout Canada on the Family Channel. NTN is also carried on many independent broadcast and cable affiliates, as well as in Mexico, the Caribbean, Venezuela and New Zealand.

NTN is available throughout North America via its unscrambled satellite signal on Hughes G-1, Transponder 22, in addition to its broadcast and cable affiliates.

NTN programming is available seven days a week, and provides over 20 hours of accessible programming each week.

NTN has enjoyed positive publicity, including features on **CNN**, **Good Morning America**, and in **TV Guide**.

NTN programming has attracted significant advertisers, including **K-Mart**, **Sears** and **AT&T**, among many others.

NTN requires no special equipment and is a part of regular broadcast programming or basic cable in most parts of North America.

NTN also makes live theatre and other special events accessible, via a wireless receiver, for the blind and visually-impaired community, such as the Tony Award-winning Broadway show, "**The Will Rogers Follies**."

NTN offers a free Program Guide to anyone who writes requesting one from the Network.